



Communiqué

The 65th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Friday 24 July in the National Office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's meeting as well as other important information.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. We encourage you to distribute it widely to colleagues and interested parties.

Do you know your infection control obligations?

In conjunction with the president of the Dental Council of New South Wales (the NSW Council), the Board wrote to all dental practitioners to remind them of their infection control obligations under the National Law.¹

This follows the recent media and public interest in standards of infection control in dental practice.

The Board and the [the NSW Council](#) take breaches in infection control standards seriously.

A copy of the letter is available on the Board's [website](#).

A [fact sheet outlining the infection control obligations of dental practitioners](#), and what members of the public can do to ensure they receive safe care, is also available.

The Board will continue to publish information on the website to help practitioners understand and comply with their infection control obligations.

Practitioner names on the register

The Board and AHPRA are required by the National Law to register health practitioners under their legal name. This is the name that appears on the [public register](#).

We expect and encourage all registered dental practitioners to make their registration status clear to patients, including their name as it appears on the register. This allows patients to check the registration status of their dental practitioner on the register.

Practitioners are required by law to advise AHPRA of any change to their legal name within 30 days of the change.

Any gap between the name in which someone is registered and the name they use in practice may cause confusion for patients.

New appointments to the Dental Board of Australia

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) has [announced](#) new appointments and reappointments to the Dental Board and other National Boards.

We thank and congratulate the retiring members of the Board on their commitment and enthusiasm to the regulation of the dental profession over a number of years, including before the start of the National Scheme.

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)

They are:

- Dr Gerard Condon (Vic)
- Mr Stephen Herrick (ACT)
- Dr Mark Leedham (NT), and
- Mr Michael Miceli (NSW).

We congratulate the new appointees who will join the Board from 31 August:

- Mr Robin Brown (ACT)
- Mrs Kim Jones (NSW)
- Dr Sajeev Koshy (Vic) , and
- Dr Kate Raymond (NT).

Oral surgery panel

The Board recently undertook an expression of interest process for membership of its Oral Surgery Panel. The panel provides advice to the Board on applications for specialist registration in oral surgery.

The Board is pleased to announce that Dr Stephen Cox, has been appointed to the panel.

Thank you to all who took the time to apply.

The third year of the CPD cycle has commenced

Dental practitioners with general, specialist and most forms of limited registration with the Board must complete a minimum of 60 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) activities over a set three-year cycle. The current cycle is from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016.

The third year of the cycle commenced on 1 July 2015.

The Board encourages practitioners to complete the requirements gradually over the three years.

The Board has submitted a proposed revised CPD registration standard to Health Ministers for approval. If approved the CPD cycle will line up with the registration period for the profession – 1 December to 30 November. We will work with the profession to implement any changes if the standard is approved by Ministers.

NSW Teen Dental Survey published

As discussed last month, the Board considers a range of reports from different sources to inform its regulatory work and to increase members' understanding of the many influences on the environment in which it regulates dental practitioners.

NSW Health has [published](#) the NSW Teen Dental Survey 2010.

This was a joint project of the Centre for Oral Health Strategy NSW (COHS), the University of Sydney, and the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH), University of Adelaide.

The survey investigated the distribution of dental caries among teenagers 14 and 15 years of age in NSW by geographic location, and a range of other demographic factors, in order to identify teenagers most in need of dental healthcare. It also examined patterns of service use, perceptions of oral health and behaviours that affect oral health among the target population.

Medicines Australia

Medicines Australia has updated its *Code of conduct*. From 1 October 2015 member pharmaceutical companies will be required to publicly report payments by companies to healthcare professionals for the provisions of services and where support is provided for education.

You can read more about these changes on the Medicines Australia [website](#).

Are your contact details up to date?

When the Board needed to correspond with all dental practitioners recently we were pleased to find we had email addresses for all but 209 of the registered 21,149 practitioners. This meant we could communicate quickly on an important issue. It also meant that costs were kept to an absolute minimum with postage required for only those without an email.

To continue receiving information from the Board and AHPRA please regularly check your contact details lodged with AHPRA. You can do this via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website.

Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
10 August 2015